

May 9, 1979

LB 262

SENATOR MARSH: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR WARNER: Little note was made, I suspect none last year, when some \$8,000 approximately was spent to remodel the death chamber in our old penitentiary on the condition that it might be used. We are about to spend about \$14 million plus for a new penitentiary which will include a death chamber and I would suggest today is the time to decide to abolish a monument to the past and not build a death chamber in a new facility, one which, in my opinion will not be used, should not be used, and it is, the worst thing I could think of is to build one as a monument to the past that we ought to forget. Certainty is what deters crime. There is no certainty of the death penalty being applied. I would only suggest that you use your judgment, your personal judgment, and join with me with my personal judgment to advance LB 262.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Marvel, and while he is standing, I would like to introduce 36 seventh and eighth graders from Senator Dworak's District in Columbus, Nebraska, Lucille Kneust and Karen Daveril. Would you identify yourselves in the balcony? Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, during, Madam President, sorry, Senator Fitzgerald.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you.

SENATOR MARVEL: It isn't often that I come down from the Speaker's stand and speak about my convictions. This is the first time I have done it this session. It is tough to sit up there all the time and watch the issues pass by and not be able to say too much about them but I think in this particular instance I ought to join with others in speaking my convictions. They have theirs. I have mine. It has been my privilege to teach a number of years out at the penal complex. It has also been my privilege to be involved in a correctional improvement program that has to do with staff improvement. As a result of all this experience, I have changed my mind about the death penalty and I think that if this state is going to move ahead in penal reform, in penal improvement, it is going to have to do more than just build buildings. It is going to have to do something inside those buildings that will change the position and the philosophy of a number of people who are in there. So with this in mind, I support LB 262 as it attempts to gain your support to move across the Board. Thank you.